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## **FAIRBANKS AREA PRESCRIBED FIRES BEGIN SATURDAY**

FAIRBANKS, Alaska—The Bureau of Land Management Alaska Fire Service is planning to ignite several prescribed fires beginning Saturday through the next two weeks to reduce fuel loads and lessen the likelihood of wildland fires that could threaten nearby areas.

Beginning Saturday, May 13, officials plan to conduct the 130-acre Chena Lakes Overflow Area project near North Pole for the Army Corps of Engineers. The goals of the project include reducing vegetation to preserve the hydraulic integrity of the flood way and promoting waterfowl habitat.

Scheduled for early next week is the Husky Drop Zone project on Fort Wainwright Army training lands located north of Eielson Air Force Base. The goal of the 400-acre project is to enhance the training area by converting it to a grassy meadow.

Within the next two weeks officials also hope to burn the 2,053-acre Fort Wainwright Small Arms Complex to reduce fuel loading and minimize the risk of unintentional wildfires starting during military training exercises.

Fire management officials said that exact date and time of ignition will depend upon precise conditions being met.

For more information visit <http://fire.ak.blm.gov> and click on “Prescribed Fire.”

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The Bureau of Land Management Alaska Fire Service provides wildland fire suppression services for all Department of the Interior and Native Corporation lands in Alaska and assists those entities with other fire management activities, including: guidance and interpretation of fire policy for BLM Alaska and management of the BLM Alaska aviation program. In addition to fire suppression missions, AFS also conducts prescribed fires in accordance with various partner agreements.